

Chapter 4 - Stewardship Assets

Introduction

Guidance on stewardship assets policies and procedures

Stewardship assets consist of plant, property, and equipment that the Federal government maintains stewardship responsibility over because of their unique value or importance to the Nation.

☞ Stewardship assets are different in nature from general PP&E because they are assumed to provide intangible benefits to the Nation for an indeterminate duration. Accordingly, the traditional accounting principles for asset recognition and cost allocation applied to private sector entities do not apply.

POLICY

Stewardship assets

Service stewardship PP&E includes:

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|--|---|
| Heritage assets | Heritage assets are PP&E that are unique because of their historical or natural significance, cultural, educational or artistic importance, or significant architectural characteristics. Heritage assets are expected to be preserved indefinitely. |
| Stewardship land | Stewardship land is the type of land not acquired for or in connection with land on which general PP&E is located. It includes all land, land rights, and improvements to land in the National Wildlife Refuge System and National Fish Hatchery System other than that used for the construction of general PP&E (e.g., administrative buildings). |
| Assets acquired incidental to stewardship land acquisitions | Buildings, structures, and other real property assets that are on stewardship land when it is acquired by the Service and are not considered material real property components of the acquisition. |

GUIDANCE

Stewardship assets

Stewardship assets are expensed in the period they are acquired. They are reported separately in Service accountability reports under the heading: *Required Supplementary Stewardship Information*.

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| Service assets as heritage assets | Assets that are unique because of their historical, natural, cultural, educational or artistic significance, and are expected to be preserved indefinitely are excluded from capitalization. Heritage assets include assets that are national Historic Landmarks, listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. |
| Multiuse heritage assets | Multiuse heritage asset is an asset where 75% or greater of space is used for operations, such as, office spaces. These are considered general PP&E. This means that any additions, renovations, and other renovations to the operating components should be accounted for in the same manner as other capital improvements. The costs that cannot be directly associated with the operating components are considered heritage assets costs and are expensed when incurred. |
| Service stewardship land | Stewardship land may include Refuge and Hatchery landholdings. Land parcels relating to administrative buildings, visitor centers and other assets are not considered stewardship assets. |
| Permanent improvements to stewardship land | Permanent improvements to stewardship land include levees, dikes, low hazard dams, and other earthen structures located on stewardship land. See next page for complete listing. |

PROCESS**Stewardship asset
documentation
requirement**

The documentation requirements for stewardship assets vary depending on the documentation objective and the justification for the designation. The following chart summarizes the documentation requirements under the various scenarios:

| Reason for Designation As a Permanent Improvement to Stewardship Land | Documentation Objective | Form of Documentation |
|---|--|--|
| Stewardship land or permanent improvement to stewardship land | Confirm type of asset | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Existence inventory or Condition Assessment documentation asset incidental to stewardship land acquisition |
| Heritage asset | Confirm that asset is historically significant and not used in Service operations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Documentation that an asset is in historical registry or application is pending. ✓ Other information to support historical significance. ✓ Attestation that asset is not used in operations. |

EXAMPLE
**Stewardship
land**

Permanent improvements to stewardship land may include: Refuge and Hatchery landholdings (but not including land parcels relating to administrative buildings, visitor centers, and other assets not considered stewardship assets)

| Asset Type | DOI Asset Code |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Beaches | 40800040 |
| Canals | 40160121 |
| Dirt Roads | 40760122 |
| Drainage Ditches (earthen) | 40160130 |
| Low Hazard Dams | 40160320 |
| Levees/Dikes | 40160400 |
| Nesting Islands | 40801300 |
| Water Impoundments | 40160110 |
| Unpaved Trails | 40801120 |

The asset type designation is prima-facie documentation for permanent improvement to stewardship land.